

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claims 1-34 (Canceled)

35. (New) A convertible food tray comprising:

a generally flat, rectangular sheet of flexible material of generally uniform thickness having a bottom side and a top side, two spaced-apart generally parallel side edges, and first and second spaced-apart generally parallel end edges;

a split in said sheet generally parallel to said side edges at approximately the midpoint of said first end edge extending from said first end edge toward said second end edge and dividing said sheet in the area of said first end edge into a first end area and a second end area;

wherein when said material from said first end area and said second end area are brought into an overlapping configuration at said split, said sheet of flexible material is caused to bow from side to side and from said first end edge to between one quarter and three quarters of the way to said second end edge, forming a concave area and a generally flat, pre-stressed area in said sheet wherein said sheet in said concave area has a general conical shape with an apex at its approximate center, and further wherein said sheet in the area of said apex is continuous whereby liquid material can be retained in said concave area and wherein said generally flat pre-stressed area in said sheet extends from and between said two side edges and from said concave area to

said second end edge; and

further wherein when material from said end areas are not in an overlapping configuration and in their original side by side configuration, said sheet can be returned to its generally flat condition for storage and/or transport.

36. (New) The convertible food tray of claim 35 further comprising:

an arcuate score line in said top side of said sheet in said flat area generally aligned with and spaced apart from said second end edge whereby when said sheet is folded along said score line, the portion of said sheet between said score line and said second end edge depends from said top side toward said apex of said concave area and forms a foot for said food tray and further strengthens said generally flat area.

37. (New) The convertible food tray of claim 36 wherein when material from said end areas are in overlapping configuration and when said sheet is folded along said score line, the portion of said sheet between said score line and said second end edge depends from said top side a distance that disposes said second end edge and said apex of said concave area generally in the same horizontal plane.

38. (New) The convertible food tray of claim 36 further comprising a container retaining hole in said generally flat area between said concave area and said arcuate score line.

39. (New) The convertible food tray of claim 36 further comprising:

a hook formed in said first end area of said sheet at one side of said

split; and

a slit formed in said second end area of said sheet on the other side of said split for receiving and retaining said hook whereby when said hook is inserted into and retained in said slit, said first end area and said second end area are brought into an overlapping configuration.

40. (New) The convertible food tray of claim 35 wherein when said first end area and said second end area are brought into an overlapping configuration, a recess is thereby formed at said split in said first end edge approximately midway between said side edges for receiving the area of a hand between the thumb and the palm.

41. (New) The convertible food tray of claim 39 further comprising a pair of score lines extending from said split to a point forming a triangular gusset.

42. (New) The convertible food tray of claim 38 further comprising:

a hole in said sheet in close proximity to said score line for receiving and holding an eating utensil.

43. (New) The convertible food tray of claim 38 further comprising:

a first slot cut in said sheet at said arcuate score line wherein said slot is large enough to pass the handle of an eating utensil; and

a second slot cut in said sheet aligned with said first slot and spaced therefrom and located on the side of said arcuate score line remote from said second end edge.

44. (New) A food tray comprising:

a generally rectangular sheet of flexible material of generally uniform

thickness having two side edges, and first and second end edges;

said sheet comprises a concave area and a generally flat area wherein said concave area extends from and between said side edges and between one quarter and three quarters of the way from said first end edge to said second end edge wherein said sheet in said concave area has a general conical shape with an apex at its approximate center, and further wherein said sheet in the area of said apex is continuous whereby liquid material can be retained in said concave area and said generally flat area in said sheet extends from and between said two side edges and from said concave area to said second end edge wherein an area of said sheet adjacent said second end edge depends along an arcuate line and locates said second end edge in approximately the same horizontal plane as said apex of said concave area forming a foot for said food tray.

45. (New) The food tray of claim 44 further comprising:

a recess in said first end edge approximately midway between said side edges for receiving the area of a hand between the thumb and the palm.

46. (New) The food tray of claim 44 further comprising:

a hole in said sheet of flexible material in the generally flat area for receiving and holding a container.